What Is Claimed Is:

1.   A method for driving a hysteresis-exhibiting final controlling element, comprising the steps of:

    driving the final controlling element by a drive signal having a variable drive quantity; and

    correcting the variable drive quantity as a function of a change thereof over time.

2.   The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

    forming an offset value signal on the basis of the change over time of the variable drive quantity, wherein:

        the step of correcting is performed in accordance with the offset value signal.

3.   The method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of:

    limiting the offset value signal to a maximum offset value.

4.   The method according to claim 3, wherein:

        the maximum offset value is variable and is changed as a function of zero crossings of the offset value signal.

5.   The method according to claim 4, futher comprising the step of:

    reducing the maximum offset value when a counter reading exceeds a predetermined threshold value within a predefined time between two of the zero crossings.

6.   The method according to claim 5, wherein:

        the counter reading is formed from the offset value signal.

7.   The method according to claim 6, wherein:

        the maximum offset value is reduced more quickly when a second, higher threshold value is exceeded.

8. The method according to claim 2, wherein:

> the offset value signal corresponds to a value of the change over time of the variable drive quantity.

9. A device for driving a final controlling element exhibiting hysteresis, comprising:

> a control device that includes at least one microcomputer and that forms a variable drive signal quantity for driving the final controlling element in accordance with at least one program executed by the at least one microcomputer, wherein:

> the at least one program corrects the variable drive signal quantity as a function of a change thereof over time.

10. A storage medium in which a computer program is stored, the computer program causing a processing device to perform the steps of:

> driving a final controlling element by a drive signal having a variable drive quantity; and

> correcting the variable drive quantity as a function of a change thereof over time.